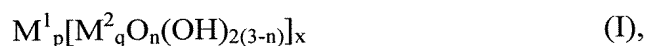


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing a polyetherol comprising reacting at least one alkylene oxide with at least one starter compound in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst is a multimetal oxide compound of the formula I:



where

- M^1 is at least one metal selected from the group consisting of IA, IIA, IIIA, IVA, VA, IB, IIB, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB and VIIIB of the Periodic Table of the Elements,
- M^2 is at least one element of groups IVA, VA and/or VIA of the Periodic Table of the Elements,
- n is an integer or fraction from greater than 2 to 3,
- p is 1,
- q is a fraction or integer greater than 0 and
- x is a fraction or integer from 1 to 20, wherein the multimetal oxide compound of the formula I has a specific BET surface area of from 15 to 500 m²/g.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the catalyst is a multimetal oxide compound of the formula I which has at least one of the following properties:

(2') q is 1;

- (3') x is an integer or fraction from 1.8 to 3.2;
- (4') the metal M^2 is antimony;
- (5') the metal M^1 is at least one selected from the group consisting of zinc and aluminum.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the metal M^1 is zinc or aluminum.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the multimetal oxide compound of the formula I has a crystal structure which is isotypic with the structure of the mineral partzite.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process for preparing a polyetherol as claimed in claim 10, wherein the multimetal oxide compound is prepared using Sb_2O_3 or Sb_2O_4 .

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process for preparing a polyetherol as claimed in claim 10, wherein the starter compound is an OH-monofunctional or OH-polyfunctional compound.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A polyetherol obtained by a process as claimed in claim 10, having a polydispersity of 1.01-1.02.